

Minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting June 19, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM.

Attending Committee Members were: Bob Dorer, Shawn Hanegan, Soraya Stevens, AnnaLisa Madison, Margot Fleishman, and Dan Silverman

Guests: Suzanne Koller, Lisa Freed, Carla Olsen from Healthy Bedford

- Reviewed meeting minutes and amended minutes. Minutes accepted unanimously.
- White Cedar Swamp Discussion
 - Lisa gave historical overview of the project.
 - There is a lot of glare on the road making it difficult to see bicyclists and walkers
 - No easements required for the sidewalks. The town owns the property, which was not the case when the sidewalks were first proposed.
 - Suggested route: Concord Road to Revolutionary Ridge.
 - A boardwalk or sidewalk would connect the network at both ends
 - A boardwalk or sidewalk would connect Davis School to the existing sidewalks
 - Margot: Discussed the sidewalk/boardwalk with Adrian to determine if it needs to be designed to allow clearing of snow. If people are using it then they could probably clear it. Adrian said they should have a fresh look at the project. A boardwalk might be preferable. It would have to have a 42" barrier on the slope side. If it were up against the grade then it would need to be level with the road surface. If the boardwalk were away from the road, then you would need the guardrail. With respect to the wildlife, a hydrologist would need to be consulted and they would need to review the design. Adrian said the DEP has changed a lot since the original plans were done so we would need a fresh look at the project.
 - Lisa Freed suggested a "Limited project" is a possible avenue because it has less permitting required.
 - The "Southern" side is better since there are no poles.
 - Carla: Kids are showing a lot of interest in biking to Davis so the sidewalk would allow them to bike to school
 - Suzanne added that Winterberry Way could connect to Davis Road via a trail
 - Prioritization
 - Expectations are growing in town for getting more sidewalks. Trying to create dedicated funding sources. Bedford needs a

“global” approach – a phased approach. Take the “sidewalk committee” list and get some dollar amounts next to those projects to plan to fund capital improvements.

- Funding
 - Community preservation funds are available. It is hard to make requests to get more sidewalk funds when we haven’t spent the funds there so far (we have the projects approved and money allocated, but there is a backlog on getting the work done so the money appears to be getting spent slowly).
- Bob reminds the group that the TAC usually makes a recommendation to the selectmen by sending a MOR. Shawn motions to have the TAC draft the MOR. Unanimous approval of motion.
- Bob gave an update on Projects. Roy Sorenson emailed Bob an update.
 - School Way bids open this Thursday
 - Minuteman Bike Extension to be funded using TIP: Transportation Improvement Program – Federal Hwy Funds.
 - North Rd sidewalks, need to meet with contractor this summer
 - Bike path repaving will happen this summer. They will mill an overlay and maybe get rid of some roots.
 - Hemlock Ln will start next year
 - Carlisle Rd – Roy would like to come to a TAC meeting to discuss that one later this year (fall)
 - Safe routes to school – they requested assessments for information reports where they came out to look at some safe routes to school programs
- Shawn update for Planning Board
 - Bedford Marketplace remodel – The 2008 plan included a pedestrian strip down the middle. Luigi’s would move street front with places to sit outside. Margot: one question is the operation of the signal. They would be adding a phase to the light for a left turn where one is currently not allowed. The change to the signal and signage would have to be permitted with the Selectmen. They haven’t presented a new plan yet. Based on the 2008 plan, they can start on the parking lot changes and drainage. They can retreat from the wetlands. They will have a better connection to the narrow gauge trail. They will tear down the buildings in the front. They will come to the Selectmen first – possibly July.
- Margot: Updates from Selectmen
 - VHB presented 4 options for Railroad Ave. There was a lot of community interest in this project. One option was to create a standard roadscape, 10 or 11ft roadways, 4 ft shoulders, 5 ft sidewalks. The other options move towards creating a disparity

between the sides. Homeowners were concerned about having the multiuse lanes cut through their driveways and near their garages. They are going to do a walkthrough on June 30th and then they will have a followup meeting to allow for public discussion of the plan.

- Remote participation discussion
 - Rick Reed reminded us to write up a response
 - Soraya will draft a response
- Carla Olsen: Healthy Bedford
 - The REV transports from Alewife to properties in Bedford. The REV thought they had committed funding for 2 years, but it turns out they didn't have a second year. They are interested in a possible collaboration with Bedford. Alyssa Sandoval is talking to people on Wiggins that may add a Rev stop to Depot Park. What is the REV's route? Alewife to Lexington, only stops in Bedford at Preston Court. It hits Alexandria Properties.
- Misc Items
 - Margot reports seeing Hubway bikes on the bike path and Minuteman National Park. It would be nice to see Zipcar or other car sharing program in Bedford.
- TAC Reorganization:
 - AnnaLisa Madison was unanimously voted in as the new TAC chair.
 - Margot formally acknowledged Bob's commitment to the TAC over several years. His commitment to the town and committee is appreciated.

Next meeting will be July 24th at 7:45.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Soraya Stevens